

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing ~~an organic~~ a food supplement useful to inhibit *Ruminococcus albus*, *R. flavefaciens*, *Butyrivibrio fibrisolvens*, or *Methanobacterium ruminatum* for livestock, comprising mixing an aqueous alkali solution of hop acids for oral ingestion with a livestock feed, wherein the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids ~~[[are]]~~ is mixed with the feed in an amount to inhibit undesirable bacteria selected from one or more of *Ruminococcus albus*, *R. flavefaciens*, *Butyrivibrio fibrisolvens*, and *Methanobacterium ruminatum*, commonly found in digestive systems of livestock.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids comprises hop acid~~[[s]]~~ salts ~~from the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids~~ which are selected from at least one of the group consisting of alpha acids, beta acids, isoalpha acids, rho-isoalpha acids, tetrahydroisoalpha acids and hexahydroisoalpha acids.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha acid~~[[s]]~~ salts are selected from at least one of the group consisting of humulone, cohumulone, and adhumulone.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the beta acid~~[[s]]~~ salts are selected from at least one of the group consisting of lupulone, colupulone, and adlupulone.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids comprises hop acid~~[[s]]~~ salts ~~from the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids~~ which are mixed with the feed ~~results~~ resulting in an amount of 2 parts per million (ppm) of hop acid present in fluid of the digestive systems of livestock.

6 - 10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the livestock is selected from the group consisting of cattle, poultry, horses, pigs, and zoo animals.

12 - 14. (Canceled)